

Golden Quadrilateral project

†*51. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the 'Golden Quadrilateral' project;
- (b) the number of contracts thereof cancelled so far;
- (c) the target set for completion of the project and the amount by which its cost has overrun;
- (d) whether the land acquisition process therefor has been completed;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to ensure early completion of the Golden Quadrilateral project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) project is about 95% complete at present

(b) Seven contracts have been terminated on GQ Project so far.

(c) No specific date for completion of balance of 5% can be indicated as the same is affected due to non-performance of contractors, re-award of terminated contracts etc. The cost overrun would be known after completion of the project.

(d) and (e) 98.34% of the land acquisition has been completed as on 31/12/2007. 1.66% of the land for the GQ Project is yet to be acquired. The delays in acquisition of land have been mainly due to procedural formalities, court cases and delay in disbursement of compensation by the competent authority to the affected land owner despite National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) depositing the compensation amount determined by the competent authority, well in advance.

(f) The steps taken to expedite the project are given in Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:-

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants, Project Directors, Senior officers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.
- (b) State Government have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under the Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals and clearance of Road Over Bridges (ROBs).
- (d) The procedure for issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.
- (e) To expedite the construction of ROBs, an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with M/s. Ircon International Limited (IRCON) for construction of some of the ROBs.
- (f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) amount.